



The Christian Basis of the Social Work Programme

Social work is a significant feature of the total programme of BCM, at the heart of which is the worshipping congregation at Grosvenor Hall. Residential Homes for the elderly, adolescents with behavioural problems and community holidays are an integral part of the programme. Other aspects of BCM's work include support and counselling for those with social and/or personal problems, community reconciliation, hospital and educational chaplaincy and pastoral work.

The social programme of BCM, as with all other parts of its work, is directed by its own autonomous committee and is regarded as part of the outreach work and ministry of the Methodist Church. As such, its purpose is to express the Christian faith in action and so commend it to others.

The social work of BCM is set within a context of Christian belief and BCM is keen to explore the implications of this in its work. However, no religious commitment is required of staff or those who benefit from its services, nor is any attempt made to force such commitment upon them.

Important values and objectives which characterise BCM's social policy are:

- ◆ seeking to respect the human dignity of each person who avails of the Mission's services
- ◆ employing professional workers for professional tasks
- ◆ observing the best canons of good social work practice, thus contributing to the enhancement of good practice throughout all areas of social work
- ◆ fostering links between church members, other volunteers and the social work projects
- ◆ working co-operatively with other social work agencies
- ◆ continuing to observe a fair employment policy

While no denominational or specific religious affiliation is required, all members of BCM's staff must be in sympathy with the aims and objectives of BCM as stated above. Anyone appointed to any of the Homes, or to a particular project, will be part of the larger venture which is the **Belfast Central Mission**.